



U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/540,143
Reply to OA dated August 14, 2006

REMARKS

Only Claims 1, 2 and 4 remain in this application for prosecution, Claims 3 and 5 having been cancelled and Claims 6-9 stand withdrawn.

As now amended, Claim 1, the only independent claim, is to an electrical cable that has a conductor core and a sheathing layer covering the core, the sheathing layer made of a synthetic resin material and having an outer surface with a mono-color. The cable has a first mark of a first color provided on a first part of an outer surface of the sheathing layer, and a second mark having a second color provided on a second part of the outer surface of the sheathing layer. The second color is different from the first color, and the second part is positioned on an opposite side of the first side in a circumferential direction of the cable. The sheathing layer of the cable has a first outer surface and a second outer surface, the first and second outer surfaces each extending in a longitudinal direction of the cable, and the first outer surface is positioned oppositely to the second outer surface in a circumferential direction of the cable. At least one of the first and second outer surfaces is provided with a plurality of the first and second marks that are alternately positioned in the longitudinal direction of the cable, and the first mark is longer than the second mark in the longitudinal direction of the cable. Such an electric cable is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of Masuda (JP 06-190315). Reconsideration and removal of that rejection is respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

The Office Action alleges that Masuda shows a cable with a sheathing layer having an outer surface with a mono color that has a first mark (M_1) of a first color provided on a first part of the outer surface and a second mark (M_2) of a second color provided on a second part of the outer surface. In Masuda, ink feeders (10_1 and 10_2) are provided on opposite sides of the cable in a lateral direction of the cable, and first and second outer surfaces (left end and right end) extend in a longitudinal direction of the cable. The first outer surface (left end) is positioned opposite the second outer surface (right end) and each is provided with a plurality of first and second marks (M_1 and M_2) that are alternately positioned in a longitudinal direction (FIG. 9).

As Masuda is understood, there do appear to be a plurality of marks of different colors along the longitudinal direction of the cable and also different marks (M_1 and M_2) on opposed sides of the cable in a circumferential direction.

The marks in the Masuda reference also appear to be of the same length while in the present application the marks are such that the first mark is longer than the second mark in the longitudinal direction.

In summary, Masuda does not teach the specifically claimed electrical cable of amended Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2 and 4.

In view of the present amendment, Claims 1, 2 and 4 are believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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